



City of Hampton, VA Meeting Minutes City Council

22 Lincoln Street
Hampton, VA 23669
www.hampton.gov

Ross A. Kearney, II
Will Moffett
Angela Lee Leary

Christopher G. Stuart
Donnie R. Tuck
George E. Wallace

Molly Joseph Ward, Mayor

Staff:

Mary Bunting, City Manager
Cynthia Hudson, City Attorney
Katherine K. Glass, CMC, Clerk of Council

Wednesday, May 25, 2011

5:34 PM

Council Chambers, 8th Floor, City Hall

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

MOLLY JOSEPH WARD PRESIDED

PRESENT: Ross A. Kearney, Christopher G. Stuart, Donnie R. Tuck, George E. Wallace

ABSENT: Angela Lee Leary, Will Moffett

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the Spotlight on Citizens program and asked the Clerk to call the roll.

Pledge of Allegiance

Ceremonial Items - "Spotlight on Citizens"

The Mayor explained that Councilwoman Leary is ill this evening and Councilman Moffett is in Germany with our City Manager working on a symposium for a prize we were nominated for. She noted that the trip was at no expense to the City. She called on Mr. Brian Marchese, Technology Coordinator.

Mr. Marchese greeted the Mayor, Vice Mayor, members of Council, Assistant City Manager James Peterson, City Attorney Cynthia Hudson, and the citizens of Hampton. He stated on tonight's Spotlight we're going to focus on our Hampton valedictorians and salutatorians, and as Councilman Tuck said they are an outstanding example of our academic achievement in Hampton. We have a packed show so we'll just jump right into it. We're going to start off with a video highlighting all of the students. The video was made by our TV station.

Following the video, the Mayor stated the video was amazing and wonderful and she hoped that the video could be played over and over on Channel 47 as it is a testament to our great school system and the great parents and the kids we have in our community. She commented she just wanted to note that both the Phoebus High School graduates

live right down the street from her. So, she doesn't think that's a coincidence. The families will all get copies of the video.

Mr. Marchese asked that the Mayor and Vice Mayor join him down on the floor and the schools will be done in alphabetical order. First we will start with Bethel High School and he asked Principal Bailey to stand up to be recognized. He thanked Principal Bailey for his service to Hampton and in helping to teach these kids.

1. 11-0162 Recognition of Stuart "Dakari" Cooke, Valedictorian, and Brittany Huth, Salutatorian, of Bethel High School.

Mr. Marchese asked Valedictorian Dakari Cooke to come forward.

Dakari made the following statement: I want to thank Dr. Bailey and all the teachers at Bethel that helped me get through school. I also want to thank my parents and family who supported me in everything I wanted to do. They've helped me a lot on this journey. I know they are proud of me and I want to keep them proud of me. Thank you.

Mr. Marchese asked Mr. & Mrs. Cooke to stand and be recognized.

Mr. Marchese stated next is Bethel High School's Salutatorian, Brittany Huth.

Brittany made the following statement: Good evening everybody. First of all, I want to thank God for giving me this opportunity of standing here today. I know I wouldn't be here without Him really. I want to thank Dr. Bailey for his support and letting his students be a voice in his school and really caring about our opinions. I want to thank our teachers there that are so supportive and really care about their students. I really want to thank my parents and my sister for always supporting me and always standing by my side even when I overbook myself. My Mom, my Dad are running me around or helping me figure things out or schedule situations and I just want to thank them for always supporting me.

Mr. Marchese asked Mr. and Mrs. Huth to stand to be recognized.

PRESENTED by Mayor Ward and Vice Mayor Wallace.

2. 11-0163 Recognition of Joshua Scott, Valedictorian, and Cindy Johnson, Salutatorian, of Hampton High School.

Mr. Marchese stated next we turn to Hampton High School and asked Principal Chambers to stand up to be recognized. He thanked Principal Chambers for her service.

Mr. Marchese stated Joshua Scott is the Valedictorian from Hampton High and asked Joshua's parents to stand to be recognized.

Joshua made the following statement: Good evening, everybody. This is truly a blessing. I would like to thank you all for coming out. I would also like to thank the support of my parents. It truly does take a village to raise a child. I've had so many different support systems throughout my walk of life. So just thank you on that. Actually I think I'm going to have to show my Uncle Obama this when I get home. Take care.

Mr. Marchese stated next we have Salutatorian Cindy Johnson and asked her mom, Mrs. Johnson, to stand.

Cindy made the following statement: I would like to thank everyone who ever supported me throughout my high school career, my Mom, my sister, my niece, also a shout out to Ms. Chambers. Thank you.

PRESENTED by Mayor Ward and Vice Mayor Wallace.

3. 11-0164 Recognition of Corey Ames, Valedictorian, and Shannon Payne, Salutatorian, of Kecoughtan High School.

Mr. Marchese stated next we're going to move to Kecoughtan High School and the Valedictorian for Kecoughtan is Corey Ames. He asked Corey to come up and asked Corey's parents to stand.

Corey made the following statement: I don't really have much to say. There are too many people that have been involved in my life to thank them all individually. I really wish I could but in the interest of time I'll give you an abridged version. Thanks of course to my family, Mr. Reynolds, the administrators and the teachers at Kecoughtan and of course all the other people that have been a big part of my life. Thank you.

Mr. Marchese stated next is the Salutatorian, Shannon Payne. He asked Shannon to come forward and asked Shannon's parents to stand.

Shannon made the following statement: Good evening, everybody. I guess I would like to thank my parents of course, my family, Principal Wright, Dr. Shifflette and all of my teachers and friends. I think that's about it.

Mr. Marchese stated he failed to recognize Principal Wright and thanked him for his service to Kecoughtan High School.

PRESENTED by Mayor Ward and Vice Mayor Wallace.

4. 11-0165 Recognition of Zachary Peters, Valedictorian, and Caitlin Kremp, Salutatorian, of Phoebus High School.

Mr. Marchese stated finally we are going to move to Phoebus High School. He asked Principal Johnson to stand to be recognized and thanked him for his service to the students at Phoebus.

Mr. Marchese stated the Valedictorian is Zachary Peters. He asked that Zachary come forward and that Zachary's parents please stand.

Zachary made the following statement: I'd just like to quickly thank Principal Johnson and the faculty and staff at Phoebus and of course my family who've always supported me throughout all of high school and before that. Thank you.

Mr. Marchese stated last but not least is the Salutatorian, Caitlin Kremp. He asked that Caitlin come forward and that Caitlin's parents please stand.

Caitlin made the following statement: Good evening. Just like everybody else, I would really like to thank my parents of course and Principal Johnson and Phoebus High School and all the teachers I've had in the past because everybody's had a really big influence on me. So thank you.

Mr. Marchese stated that concludes our Spotlight program for this evening. He thanked all the students for their hard work in school and wished them well on their way to college.

Mayor Ward thanked Mr. Marchese and everyone for being here this evening. Once again, we are so proud of you and grateful to you for all your hard work and we look forward to seeing what you're going to do in the future. We hope you'll come home to Hampton after you go out into the big, wild world and learn all the things you want to learn. She stated that concludes our program. We'll have a short recess and encouraged everyone to come back for the comment period.

PRESENTED by Mayor Ward and Vice Mayor Wallace.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Following the recess, the Mayor requested that the Clerk read the protocol for the public comment period.

Mayor Ward indicated that there had recently been an advertisement in the newspaper regarding a proposed bond issue of \$38M but she wanted everyone to know that the actual bond issue may be less. She asked the City Attorney and Pete Peterson, Assistant City Manager, to explain.

Cynthia Hudson, City Attorney, stated that her office worked with the Finance Director to comply with the legal notice necessary on the bond issue. The matter is subject to further debate and it was advertised at the maximum. Once proposed, City Council can always decrease the amount of the bond issue but cannot increase it so the decision to provide the maximum flexibility was a staff decision, not the decision of Council.

Assistant City Manager James A. "Pete" Peterson explained that bond issues are done in two steps. The first is an appropriation action and the second is a public hearing. He stated that it has to be advertised but at the actual public hearing the actual amount of the bond will be in the resolution.

Mr. David Braunbeck, 2111 E. Pembroke Ave. #4B, stated that it had been brought to his attention that he had jumped on City Council at the first meeting of the month. He continued that it wasn't his intention to do so but he wanted to bring some matters to their attention. He still has an ongoing issue with Hampton Roads Transit and Handi-ride but will check into things further and will do what he needs to do accordingly. He indicated that it wasn't his intention to threaten and asked Council to not take it in that context. He stated that he brought the matter to Council's attention as his representatives. He indicated that he had people mad at him and simply wanted to bring the matter to City Council's attention and apologized if he offended anybody. He asked

if he could get more help and have the matter looked into further as something needs to be done. He stated that his life has been put on hold and he can't deal with it.

Mayor Ward stated that Mr. Braunbeck did not offend anyone and his apology wasn't needed but was appreciated.

Ms. Lisa L. Chandler, 1301 Modoc Ave, stated that she had come before City Council before on her custody case. She needed to know if anyone could represent her in a Child Protective Services / Community Services Board matter to help bring her son back. Her son hasn't been with her for one year. She stated that she had all of the documents and paperwork showing that there was no reason for her son to be removed and her records had been misread and misunderstood. She stated that the Veterans Administration hospital backs her up that there is no cause to remove her son. She continued that, in January, Judge Roe gave her parents custody of her son and he was in school at Moton. Her predicament is in finding a lawyer to help because they give up and they need to help her out and understand her side instead of simply saying she has a mental illness. Court appointed attorneys don't understand that her problem is just anxiety. The lawyers want to call you sick or crazy and it has been misinterpreted. The Guardian ad Litem questioned the reason for her prescription medication and alleged she was deceiving the court. She is in therapy and is taking her medications and wants to stop being badgered. She asked if Council knew of someone who could meet with her, she would appreciate it and would provide all of the supporting documents from the beginning. Her next Court date is June 27th at 2 p.m. She said she would appreciate help.

Mr. Edwin Boone, 48 Snow Street, spoke on Hampton's award for civic engagement. He provided his remarks in writing and asked that they be placed into the minutes in their entirety. A copy is attached.

Adjournment

Molly Joseph Ward
Mayor

Katherine K. Glass, CMC
Clerk of Council

Date approved by Council _____

5/25/11

My name is Edwin Boone and I live at 48 Snow Street.

I read with amazement that Hampton had won an award for Civic Engagement in Germany. How did this happen? A nationally recognized expert and author nominated the City because he had found out about the budget polling process. Did he have any INSIGHT into the rest of Hampton's supposed Civic engagement?[?] Did he have any INSIGHT on the fact that Hampton has cut its full council meetings to only one a month? Did he have any INSIGHT on the fact that the public can only engage the council for three minutes per person per meeting down from 5 minutes? Where did he get his information? Did he poll the citizens of Hampton, himself? Yes, Dr. Levine has a PhD from Oxford and I have only a Bachelor's Degree. But I have one advantage over Dr. Levine. I live here and there are many citizens like myself who are disgusted with the workings of City Hall. And I also have enough INSIGHT to know that what appears in print may not be the whole truth. I know when over 7,000 registered voters are ignored for one developer, that it is a black eye for democracy. I may have to contact Dr. Levine and let him know that Democracy in Hampton is not as advertised. I need to let him know that as an attendee of the PPOC that my time for speaking has been cut from three minutes to two. I believe the gentleman has been blindsided. He needs to know the truth.

My next question is: "How much of my taxpayer's money went to buy the Buckroe Trailer Park." We were promised by the City Manager that the consideration for such purchases would be listed on the deeds. Well, it wasn't.

And I am sure David Short and Company did not give the land away. So,

Ms. Bunting, what did we pay for it and when will your promise be realized?

Dealings in City Hall have got to come to an end. How do we do it?

We go to the polls and vote for honest candidates known for their integrity.

These two qualifications seem to be lacking lately. Voters of Hampton, do your homework. Use your INSIGHT. Most of all, get out and VOTE.

I want all these comments put into the minutes in its entirety.